

5

Nari Kusakawa

The RECIPE for
GERTRUDE

How

demon?

Follow the recipe!

The series ends with a collection of short stories! Gertrude, Puppen and Mariotte confront a strange music teacher at Sahara's school. Then Gertrude ends up in Canada, where he starts out searching for the Recipe but ends up helping in a hunt for Bigfoot! A flashback story reveals how Gertrude's rival Curtis lost his eye. And how will Puppen react when Mariotte puts him on a diet?



Comedy everyone

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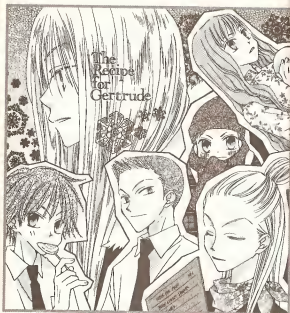
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The RECIPE for GERTRUDE

By Nari Kusakawa

Volume 5



THE DEVILISH OPUS

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PREVIEW ART

The Devilish Opus

This story might be a little difficult to follow if you have only read the serials and not the bound volumes. This is the first story that was featured in the main *Lala* magazine, so I made the preview look like the one that was used for the first story in *Lala DX*.¹



The Boy and the Digfoot I have leather gloves lined with fur on the inside. They are so warm I'm never without them when I ride my bicycle in winter.



Aspidem

It's set in London at the end of the 19th century although I'm really not sure of the details. I've really been into Sherlock Holmes since watching a TV show.

¹*Lala* magazine is the Japanese publication where "The Recipe for Gertrude" was originally serialized.

I'M
NOT A
STUDENT.

YOU
MEAN
MISS
SUSUKI?
YOU KNOW
HER?

OH?

THAT'S
IT.
WE CAME
HERE TO
SEE
SAHARA.

I SENT
HER TO
THE
OFFICE ON
AN
ERRAND.

UM...
HEY...

WHERE
DO YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
GOING?

LIKE I
SAID.

SKIPPING OUT
ON THE FIRST
DAY?

WHICH
IS
TRUE.

THINK
ABOUT IT!
YOU'VE
NEVER
SEEN ME
BEFORE!

IF I'M
SUPPOSED TO
BE A STUDENT,
WHAT ABOUT
ALL THE FORMS
AND STUFF?!
WHEN DID YOU
SIGN THOSE?!

HE'S NEW TO
JAPAN, SO
HE'S STILL A
LITTLE
CONFUSED.

RIGHT,
UWL...

WHAT AM
I DOING
IN THIS
UNIFORM?

I DON'T
REMEMBER
ENROLLING
HERE!

REALLY?!

YEAH
RIGHT!
YOU MAKE
IT SEEM
LIKE I'M
THE ONE
WHO'S A
NUTS!

HEY.

MAKE
HIM FEEL
WELCOME.

RIGHT...
HA HA

IS THIS A
DREAM OR
WHAT?!

I'M
POSITIVE
I WAS...



SO...UM...
WHY ARE
YOU WEARING
A UNIFORM?

SEE YOU
INTO
LOSLAY!

I THINK
I CAN'T
POP IN
AND OUT
LIKE I
USUALLY
DO.

I KEEP
ENDING UP IN
WEIRD PLACES.
AT LEAST I
FOUND YOU,
THOUGH.



HEY,
YOUR REAC-
TION!

YOU'RE
MOR-
MORP!



GER-
TRUDE!

SUSUGI
SAHARA.

WHY
ARE YOU
HERE

OH,
SA-
HARA!

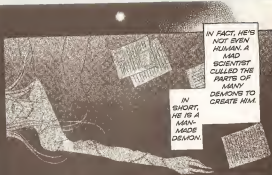


AND
WHEN
YOU CAME
TO, YOU WERE
IN A
CLASSROOM?
THE TEACHER WAS
INTRODUCING YOU
AS A NEW
STUDENT?
AND EVERYBODY
WELCOMED YOU
LIKE NOTHING
WAS WRONG?
RIGHT?

BUT, WHEN
YOU GOT
HERE YOU
STARTED
ZONING
OUT?

THERE WAS
SOMETHING
YOU NEEDED
TO SEE ME
ABOUT.

...LET ME
GET THIS
STRAIGHT.



IN FACT, HE'S
NOT EVEN
HUMAN. A
MAD
SCIENTIST
CUDDLED THE
PARTS OF
MANY
DEMONS TO
CREATE HIM.

IN
SHORT,
HE IS A
MAN-
MADE
DEMON.



HE HAS MET
SOMEONE
VERY
SPECIAL
HERE.

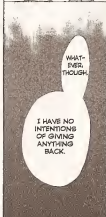
AND,
THAT IS
NOT
ALL.

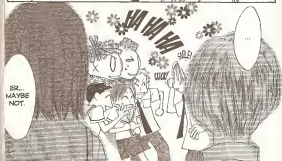


THIS
IS HER.

NATURALLY,
THE
DEMONS
WANT THEIR
PARTS
BACK. THEY,
TOO, HAVE
COME.

HIS LONG
SEARCH FOR
"THE RECIPE
FOR
GERTRUDE"
WHICH
CHRONICLES
HOW HE WAS
MADE, HAS
BROUGHT HIM
TO JAPAN.







I THINK
I KNOW
WHO IT
IS.

WHAT?

ARE WE
BACK IN
THE
REAL
WORLD?

MARIOTTE/
PUPPEN!
WAKE UP!

YEAH.

EVERYONE'S
STILL
DREAMING.

BUT, I
KNOW
WHO IT
IS NOW.

BAHA-
RA!

HAHA!
IT'S
LIKE
YOU
SAID,
WE'RE
ON THE
THIRD
FLOOR.

I WOKE
UP IN
THE
HOME EC
CLASS.

YEAH.

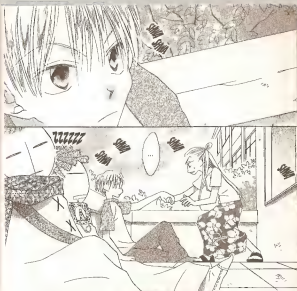
A BOB? LIKE THIS?

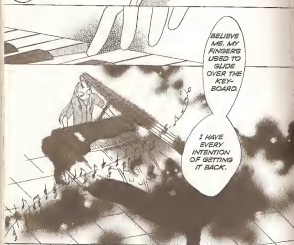
IT WAS
A
YOUNG
WOMAN.

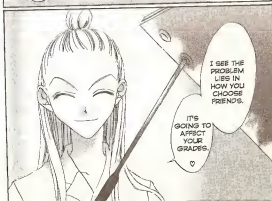
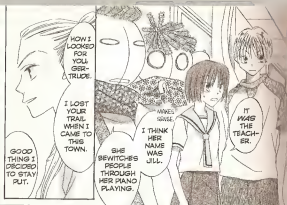
HAD A
BOB ON
TOP.

THIN
EYEBROWS.
LONG
SKIRT.
LONG HAIR.

IT'S
PROBABLY
OUR
MUSIC
TEACHER.







REMEMBER
IF YOU
SE 3'
OFFER

IT'S SAYING,
"YOU'RE WEAK,
SO YOU HAVE TO
DO AS I BID."

GERTRUDE
CAN
COMMAND
WHATEVER
HAS HIS
BLOOD
WRITTEN
ON IT.

YEH,
BUT I
ALREADY
KNOW
THAT.

THE NAME IS CURTAIN.

SSSST

WHAT?

RIP

GOO

WAIT A
SECOND!
SHE HAS A
LEFT HAND!

GET
CLITTA
MY WAY!

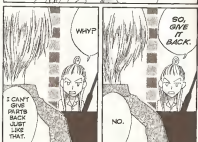
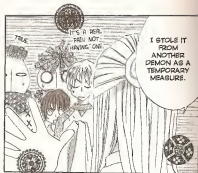
Frail

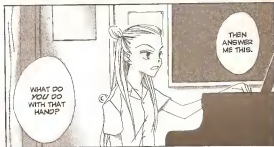
FRAILTY...

1.

This is the fifth and final volume. It contains six Gertrude stories and one unrelated short story. There isn't enough space at the end for my usual postscript, so I'm going to use these spaces for my comments about the stories.

The Deathly Opus. A hornet flew into my room the night before this story's deadline. It was an absolute nightmare.





WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THAT HAND?

THEN ANSWER ME THIS.



THAT HAND IS COMPLETELY WASTED ON YOU.

IT'S LIKE PEARLS BEFORE A SWINE.



IT'S NOT AS IF YOU CAN PLAY MUSIC LIKE I CAN.

TO OPEN A DOOR?

TO TURN A PAGE?

YOU CAN DO THAT WITH YOUR FOOT.



MISS
SAHARA,
I ADMIRE
YOUR
COURAGE.

HOWEVER,
THIS HAS
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH YOU.



THAT HAND'S
REALLY
IMPORTANT TO
HIM.



LISTEN.

DO YOU
REMEMBER
THIS
TUNE?



HMM?



THROWING
THINGS AND
BREAKING
THINGS ARE
EASY ENOUGH!

I CAN DO IT,
TOO--AND I
DON'T NEED A
PIANO TO DO IT!

WHO DO
YOU THINK
YOU ARE,
PUTTING
GERTRUDE
DOWN?



SHE DOES HAVE A POINT.





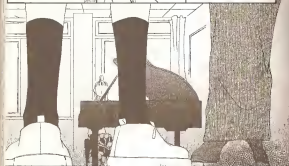
DO YOU
THINK I
HAVEN'T
HEARD
THAT
BE-
FORE?

THE DAYS THAT
I HAVE LIVED
HAVE LEFT
THEIR MARK
ON THIS BODY.

YOU'RE
NOTHING
MORE
THAN A
COMMON
THIEF.

SO,
YOU'RE
NOT
GET-
TING IT
BACK.

THERE'S NO WAY
I'M GIVING IT UP.



NOR AM I WILLING TO
LOSE YOU. SOME OF MY
FONDEST MEMORIES
ARE WITH YOU.



IT'S ALL
ABOUT
HEART.

I'M PROUD
OF THIS
BODY NOW.



SURE IT'S A
BUNCH OF
PARTS THAT
SOMEONE
SLES PUT
TOGETHER.
BUT, THIS IS
WHAT I
FOUGHT MY
BATTLES WITH,
YOU KNOW?

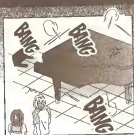


IT'S MINE
NOW.

I'VE ACTED
TOUGH. I'VE
LIED. BUT,
SOMEHOW I
ALWAYS GOT
THROUGH.











CHALK
GIVE UP
FOR YOU.

OH.

THE
OTHER
STUDENTS
WILL
START
WAKING
UP.

SEE
YA.

EVERY TIME I REACH OUT AND TOUCH YOU,
THE WORLD SEEMS THAT MUCH NICER.



JUST ABOUT THEM...

IT'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE.

AND, I'M
POSITIVE THIS
BODY WILL
WITNESS MANY
MORE
MEMORIES TO
COME.

THE DEVILISH OPUS / END



HIE
HIE
HIE

THERE.

SLEEP
IT'S
FINE.

WHAT
WAS
ALL
THAT
ABOUT?

WH-
WHAT?!



YOU
HONESTLY
CONSIDER
THAT HAND
YOURS.



I CAN SEE IT
IN YOUR
EYES.

THE PEOPLE OF
CERRO

THE BOY
AND THE BIGFOOT



Preview Art

Extracurricular Activities →
Just so that you'll know, they're trying to wear school uniforms.



The High of Gold
Even things that cause you to sigh might actually, in the end, be good for you. That's what I meant by the title, but it doesn't come across very well.



← Kaito's Birth Game
From this angle, it looks as though Mariotte is scowling.



Pappen Goes on a Diet
In retrospect, it should've been "total cal!"



THERE'VE
BEEN A
LOT OF
BIGFOOT
SIGHTINGS
AROUND
HERE.

THAT
WOULD
EXPLAIN
WHY
THERE
ARE SO
MANY
HUNTERS.

I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE
PRETENDED
I WAS
HUMAN.



IT WAS
CHASING
THE KID.



SOME
BOUNTY
HUNTER'S
DOGP?



THE RECIPE
I'M LOOKING
FOR WAS
EVEN
AUCTIONED
OFF.

THE
AUCTIONEER
SAID HE'D
TELL ME
WHAT HE
KNEW--IF I
BROUGHT
HIM A
BIGFOOT.

WHERE'S
IT
BARKING
FROM?
IT
SOUNDS
LIKE IT
GOT
AHEAD OF
ME.

LIKE,
MER-
MAIDS.

EVEN
FIRE
LIZ-
ARDS.

BIG-
FOOT IS ES-
PECIALLY
"IN"
RIGHT
NOW.





THEN,
WHAT
KINDA
ANSWER
WILL MAKE
YOU
HAPPY?

YOU
WERE
GONNA
SAY
THAT,
WEREN'T
YOU?

...



CULD



THAT
YOU'RE
NOT
HUMAN?

LIKE...
LIM...

AND,
DON'T
GIVE ME
A STUPID
ANSWER
LIKE YOU
HAVE A
LOW BODY
TEMPER-
ATURE.

IT'S
FREEZING
OUT.



I NEED
TO TALK
TO YOU.

WAIT.



WAIT.

BUT, I
DON'T.

SO,
GET
LOST.



HEY!

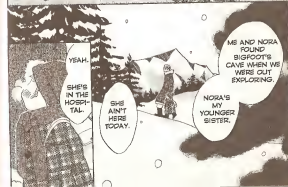
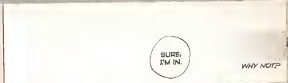
THEN,
JUST
ANSWER
ME THIS.

YOUR
BREATH.



HOW COME IT
ISN'T WHITE?







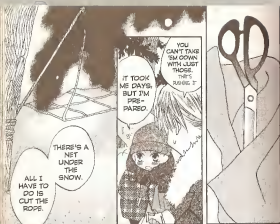
2.

The Boy and the Bigfoot

I really enjoyed drawing the little kid. Kids seem sweeter to me than they used to. It could be my biological clock ticking away.

Gertrude has long hair in this story, but I think he looks better when it's at its usual length. I tried making it even shorter. (See below.) I think it looks better the usual way.







HE HAD
NOBODY
TO TALK
TO,
COMING
ALL THE
WAY OUT
HERE BY
HIMSELF.



HE
MUST'VE
BEEN
REALLY
LONELY.

IT PROBABLY
TOOK HIM
HOURS.



AND, HE
DID IT
FOR DAYS
ON END.



"SO, YOU
REALLY DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW I FEEL?"



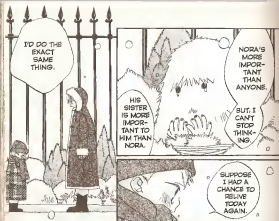
I'M GONNA
GO AND
CATCH THEM,
OKAY?

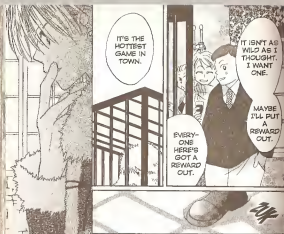




WHAT WAS
GOING
THROUGH HIS
HEAD?







IT'S THE HOTTEST GAME IN TOWN.

IT ISN'T AS WILD AS I THOUGHT. I WANT ONE.

MAYBE I'LL PUT A REWARD OUT.

EVERY-ONE HERE'S GOT A REWARD OUT.

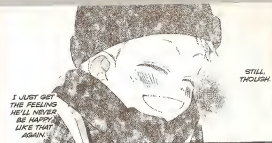
ZUK

FRAILTY...

Frailty.
My name is snow.

TIME TO CRASH THE PARTY.

THY NAME IS SNOW.



STILL, THOUGH.

I JUST GET THE FEELING HE'LL NEVER BE HAPPY LIKE THAT AGAIN.



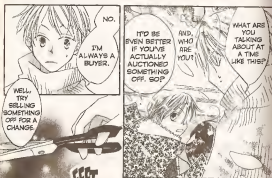
WOW, SO THIS IS IT.

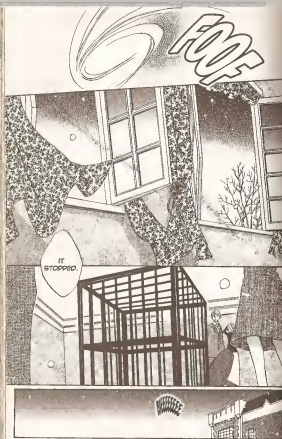


STAY PUT.

ZUK









YOU KNOW, I
CAN SORT OF
UNDERSTAND
HOW YOU FEEL.

FOR
NOW, AT
LEAST.



HERE
ARE
YOUR
SCISSORS

IT'LL
GROW
BACK.

BESIDES,
I KINDA
LIKE IT
SHORT.

IT'S
NOTHING.

AND
WELL,

THANKS

FOR
YOUR
HAIR,
TOO.



YEAH.

SO IS
YOUR
SISTER GONNA
GET THAT
OPERATION
NOW?



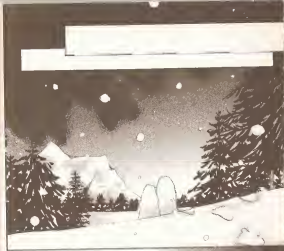
THAT'S
GOOD
TO
HEAR.

REAL-
LY?



MOM AND DAD
GOT MAD AT
ME FOR
GOING OUT
AND
CATCHING A
BIGFOOT.

IT'S
OKAY
NOW,
THOUGH.



PROBABLY
SOME-
THING
I'LL FIND
SOME-
WHERE
ELSE.



WHAT
DID YOU
WANT
FOR
YOUR
REWARD?



YEP.

SO MUCH
FOR
YOUR
REWARD

ENGLAND, AT THE END
OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

THE BOY AND THE BIGFOOT

ENGLAND'S
BEST
FORTUNE-
TELLER?

YOU'RE
SUSPECTED
TO KILL
HEP?

IS THAT
WHY YOU
ACCEPTED
VICTORY?

SHE MIRRORS
A GOOD
LIVING, TOO.

SHE
FORSAW
IT.

NOT QUITE
CURTIS.

I'M TO KILL
THE ONE
WHO IS
GOING TO
BE THE
BEST.

YES. IT
SEEMED
INTEREST-
ING
ENOUGH.

SO, SHE
WANTS ME
TO KILL HER
FAMILY.

THERE ARE
SOME
THINGS
EVEN WE
DEMONS
CANNOT
FORESEE.

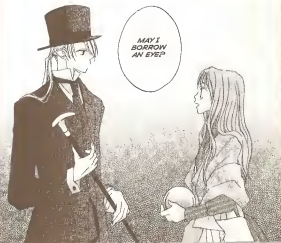
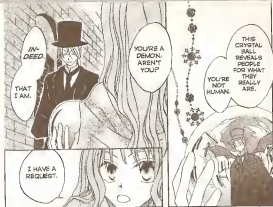
BUT
SOME
HUMANS
CAN.

THE BEST IS
THE ONE
WHO CAME
TO ME.

YOU LEFT A LOT OF
FOOTPRINTS IN THE
SNOW FOR YOUR
LITTLE SISTER.

IT'S ONLY RIGHT
THAT A GENTLE
SNOWFALL WILL
COVER THEM.







ALL



SHE'S DRINKING
UP THE
CONFRICT.

CAN'T
BE.

MANY
OTHERS ARE
GOING TO
DIE BECAUSE
OF ME

YOU WANT
TO BE
SURE, SO
YOU CAN
AVOID IT.

IS THAT
IT?

I
FORSAW
THE
GREAT
TRAGEDY.

THAT'S
WHEN I
DISCOVERED
THAT
I WAS
ACTUALLY
SEEING
MY OWN
DEATH.

I
COULDN'T
TELL
WHEN OR
WHERE
THOUGH.

THE CIRCUM-
STANCES
SURROUND-
ING MY
APPROACHING
DEATH.

CLOP

THE PRICE
IS TOO
DEAR FOR
MOST.

ARE YOU
SURE YOU
WANT TO
PAY WITH
YOUR
LIFE?

YES.

WHAT IS IT
THAT YOU
WANT TO
KNOW SO
MUCH?

3.

Requiem

I often use names ending with a "D" sound because I like the way they sound. I wanted to name the one with black hair Floyd, but I decided against it because then there would be too many names ending with a "D" sound.

I was very happy when a friend told Chelera's name reminded her of cotton candy. That's the exact sort of sweet feel I was trying to create.



BECAUSE I WANT IT THAT WAY.



SLOT

THERE, SIGNED AND SEALED.



IT WON'T.

I JUST WANT TO CHANGE HOW I DIE.

YES, BUT IF I DON'T DIVINE IT, INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL DIE.

YOU CAN GET THROUGH THAT DAY, BUT IT WON'T SAVE YOU.

TAD

I WANT TO DIE PEACEFULLY.

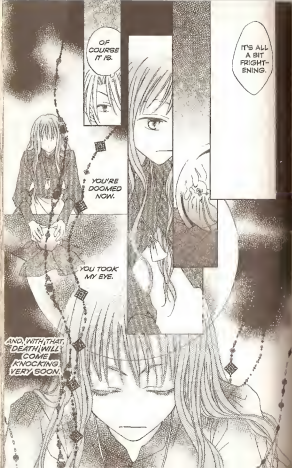
YOU'RE VERY COURAGEOUS.

IT WON'T CHANGE THE FACT YOU WILL STILL DIE, THOUGH.

YES.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?

YOU THINK THAT MY TAKING OF YOUR SOUL WILL BE PEACEFUL?



OF COURSE IT IS.

YOU'RE DOOMED NOW.

YOU TOOK MY EYE.

AND WITH THAT, DEATH WILL COME KNOCKING VERY SOON.

IT'S ALL A BIT FRIGHTENING.



HOLD IT TIGHT.

ALL RIGHT, MISS BROWN.

TELL US WHAT YOU SEE.

NO...

IT'S... IT'S... UH...

I WOULD NEVER THINK THAT.

IS IT REVOLTING?

WHY WOULD I
BE ON A
STAGE-
COACH
WITH HIM?

VICTOR?

NO.
THAT
WON'T
HAPPEN.

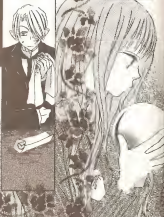
NOT TO
CHIESEA
ANY
BROWN.

REALLY?

94'S THAT
GOOD?

THEN
SHE'S
GOING TO
BE THE
BEST
FORTUNE-
TELLER IN
ENGLAND!

I'M GOING
TO DIVEST
HER OF HER
SOUL IN
THREE DAYS.



IT'S
CAUSED BY
A STAGE-
COACH
THAT
PLUNGES
INTO A
BUILDING.

NEAR...
WEST-
MINSTER
BRIDGE.

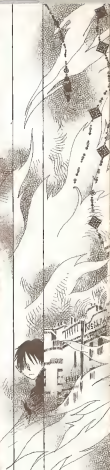
A FIRE.
THERE'S
A BIG
FIRE.

UNFOR-
TUNATELY,
A FIRE
STARTS
AND
SPREADS.

IT'S
THREE
DAYS
FROM
NOW.

I'M IN
THAT
STAGE-
COACH.

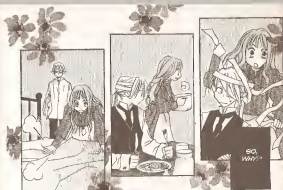
AND,
THERE'S
A DEMON
WITH
BLACK
HAIR AND
AN IMP.





I AM THE
VERY
MONSTER
WHO IS
GOING TO
KILL HER.

SHE'S TRYING TO
FACE UP TO IT--BY
HERSELF.



GOOD
NIGHT.
SEE YOU IN THE
MORN-
ING.



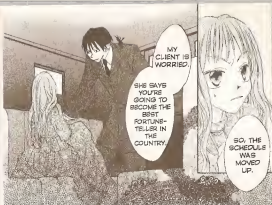
BUT, DEEP DOWN, SHE'S
TERRIFIED.



SHE'S
CARRYING
ON LIKE
NOTHING'S
WRONG.

DEBOUT
REALLY
DON'T
NEED
TO SLEEP
IF YOU
CAN







HELLO,
VICTOR.
CHELSEA
ANN
BROWN...

...HAS
ALREADY
AGREED
TO SELL
HER
SOUL.

CURTIS...



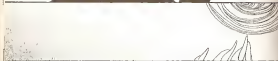
(CHORE)

IN TWO DAYS, I SHALL GIVE MYSELF...



...TO HIM.





BUT, WHY DID SHE THINK I'D BE THE BEST?

I'M NOT VERY GOOD.

VICTOR'S NOT AROUND TO KILL YOU ANYMORE

YOUR ADVERSARY THOUGHT SHE WAS ONE STEP AHEAD OF YOU.

IT DIDN'T TURN OUT THAT WAY.

OH, DEAR. WHAT A MESSY SITUATION.



TRUE.



GOODBYE, VICTOR.

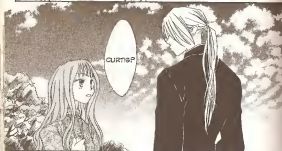
WA
GOO
ACK!



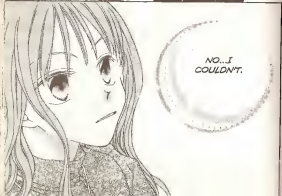
I WOULD RATHER YOU DIDN'T STEAL WHAT IS MINE.



AM I TO
TAKE HER
SOUL?



CURTIS?



NO...I
COULDN'T.



YOU NOW
HAVE THE
EYE OF A
DEMON.
THAT
MAKES
YOU
BETTER.

BUT,
CURTIS,
YOU'RE
GOING
TO—

YES..



HUMP

IT JUST
MIGHT
HAPPEN,
THOUGH.

JUST SUPPOSE...

SUPPOSE I SAID YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO GIVE IT BACK.



SHE WAS
ANOTHER
STEP
AHEAD.

CR
ROR
ROR
ROR
ROR
ROR



OH,
CHL-
SEA...



HOW FAR?

HOW FAR WAS SHE
ABLE TO SEE?

HOW
FAR
DID
SHE
PLAN?

"THERE ARE SOME THINGS EVEN
WE DEMONS CANNOT FORESEE?"



CLICK

SHE EVEN
FORESAW
HOW I'D
FEEL?



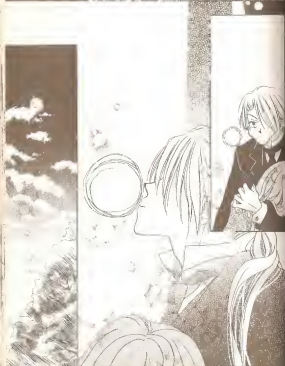
CHELSEA!

THUD



BLAM

BLAM



SHE
FORESAW
AND
PLANNED
EVERYTHING
THIS WAY?





AND SO BEGAN MY JOURNEY OF 100 YEARS.

REQUENT/END



ITS
LOADS
OF FUN
NOW
THAT
YOU'RE
HERE!

ouch!



WHEN
MARIOTTE
JOINED...

YOU'D BE
TOTALLY
WELCOME
BECAUSE
WE DON'T
HAVE THAT
MANY
MEMBERS.

THAT
WOULDN'T
BE SUCH
A GOOD
IDEA.

KONAMI?

WHEN
...

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.

DEMON BEAM

HUMP

WHEN
DID
YOU
JOIN?

I
GUESS IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
WHEN
YOU
JOINED.



KONAMI...

EVERY-
ONE...

...WHILE
PARTICIP-
ATING IN
EXTRACUR-
RICULAR
ACTIVITIES.



WE CAN
TELL THAT
YOU
REALLY
LIKE IT
HERE.

WE'RE
JUST
GLAD
YOU DID.

YOU ARE
SO
GOOD AT
COOKING
AND
SEWING.



MARIOTTE
AND PUPPEN,
OUR TWO
PUPPET
DANCING,
HAVE
DISCOVERED
IT'S FUN TO
BE HUMAN.

AT
SCHOOL,
THEY'RE
KEEPING
THEIR
IDENTI-
TIES
SECRET.

I'LL HAVE
SOME
COFFEE.

SURE



OH,
RIGHT.

THEY'RE
AT
SCHOOL.



PUPPEN,
WHY DON'T
YOU
TRANSFER
TO OUR
CLUB?

WHAT'S IT
MATTER? YOU
STILL GET TO
EAT THEM.

WHAT?
COOKIES
TODAY,
MARIOTTE?

I
SHOULD'VE
JOINED
THE HOUSE
SC CLUB.

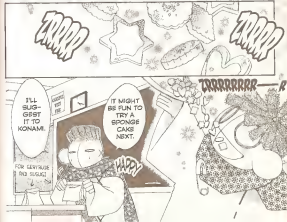
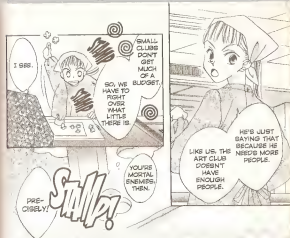
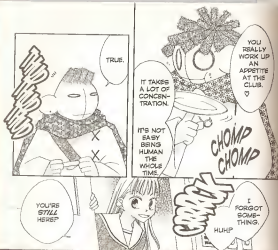




REALLY.

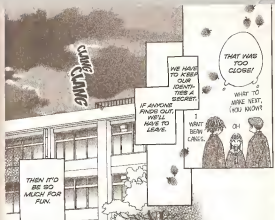
GOOK



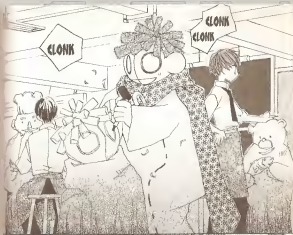


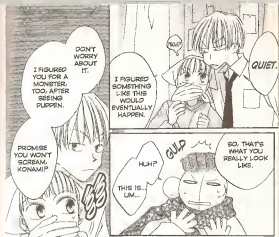
Extracurricular Activities

I really like doing stories in which Mariotta and Puppen are the main characters. Ever since I was a young girl, I liked drawing, and it was my dream to join the art club in high school. So what did I do? I joined the club for Kendo, which is like a Japanese version of fencing. Almost everyone was a black belt, and I was just a beginner. I quit. I was terrible. Totally.



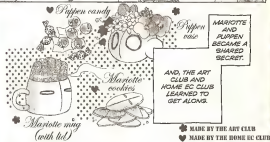






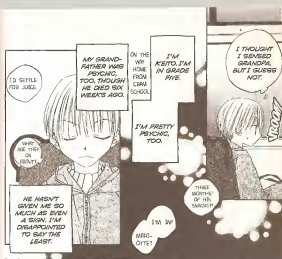
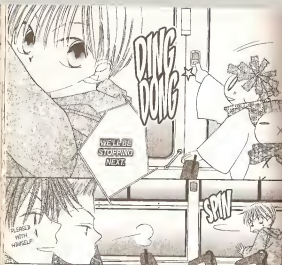
the RECIPE to
GET RUDE

KEITO'S SIXTH SENSE



MADE BY THE ART CLUB
MADE BY THE HOME EC CLUB

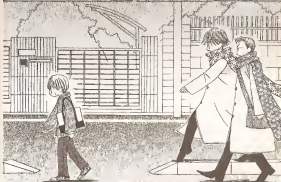


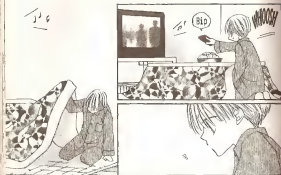


5.

Keito's Sixth Sense

This is the fastest story I ever rendered. I usually have such a hard time coming up with stories, but this one took me just five days from start to finish. Actually, I had to do it that fast. Guess who got behind? Me. I do these short stories when I have a bit of free time between the main stories. It's a nice contrast to when it gets really stressful.





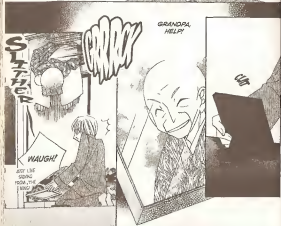
IT'S LIKE IN
THE SCENE
BEFORE!



IT'S THE
ONE
FROM
BEFORE!



HURRING AWAY



WAUGH!

YANK

I'M
TRAPPED!

CHILL

GULP

SMACK

FLASH

GRANDPA
GIVE ME
STRENGTH!

HEH

OH,
YEAHP
YOU'RE
TOAST!

GRANDPA GOT
THESE CHARMS
AT THE LOCAL
TEMPLE TO
WARD OFF EVIL
SPIRITS!

SOUL
SPIRIT
CHARM

THE
MOMENT
THAT!

BECAUSE
THE
PRIEST
WAS
LINEY!

GRANDPA!
WHY?!
WHY?!
WHY?!

STICK

BUT, NOBODY
ELSE CAN
SEE THEM.

WHO CAN I
ASK FOR
HELP?!

IT'S
NO
USE!

DO I RUN
OUTSIDE?!

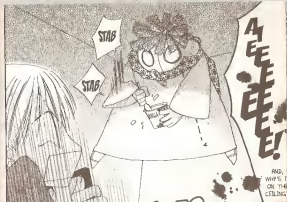


GRANDPA!
HELP!

GO
AWAY!

I WAS
STUPID!

IT'S ALL
BECAUSE I
ACTED TOUGH
AND PRETENDED
I WASN'T
SCARED!
BUT, I DON'T
HAVE THE
POWER TO
GET RID OF
THEM!



STAB

STAB

AEEEEEE!

HAG,
WHY'S IT
ON THE
CEILING?



GET
AWAY
FROM
ME!

HAUGH!

THOT!



SCREECH

NO!

HIM,
TOO!

SLAM!

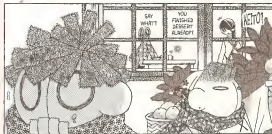
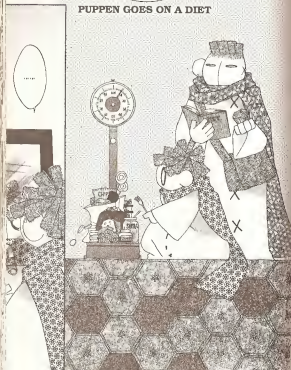
I
SHOULDEVE
RAN AS
FAST AS I
COULD THE
SECOND I
GOT OFF
THE BUS.

I KNEW
THEY
WERENT
HUMAN.



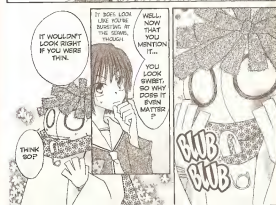
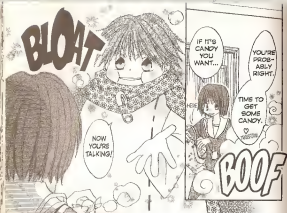


PUPPEN GOES ON A DIET



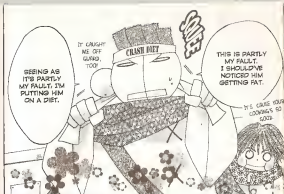
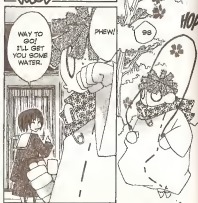
MAYBE THEN YOU CAN TELL
ME WHO THEY WERE,
GRANDPA.





Puppen Goes on a Diet

Many readers probably think I'm a big eater. I'm not! In fact, my stomach is very sensitive, prone to becoming upset. That said, I love drawing people feasting. I think in every one of my stories, including the short ones, someone (usually Puppen) is either eating or drinking.





- Life drink
- Cucumber salad
- Brown rice

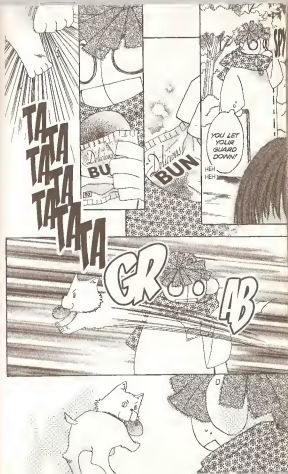


YOU'LL FEEL
FULLER IF
YOU CHEW
MORE.



WANT
SOME
MORE?

I
ACCIDENT-
TALLY
MADE TOO
MUCH.



**I
DEMAND
SECONDS!**

SO WHAT IF
MY HUMAN
FORM IS FAT?
IT'S STILL ME!

YOU'RE
EATING
TOO
MUCH!

THE DIET
WENT ON
FOR TWO
WEEKS

THIS
DOESN'T
MAKE
ANY
SENSE!

WHEN I'M IN
THIS FORM,
I'M ROLY-
POLY AND I
LOOK SWEET.

BUT, I HAVE
TO GO ON A
DIET BECAUSE
MY HUMAN
FORM LOOKS
FAT!

SOB

SOB

OK.
ALL
RIGHT.

NO.
THE
FIVE

I FEEL
EVEN
HUNGER.
ER.

I
WANT
MORE.

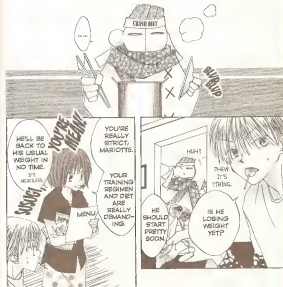
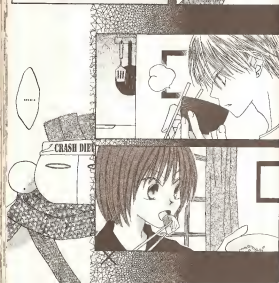
CRASH DIET

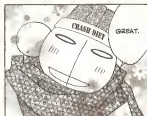
I WANT SECONDS!

THAT
LOOKS
GOOD,
MOM

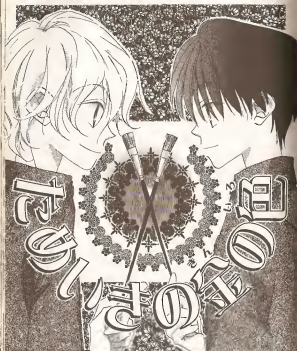
NO.

Pigeon's dinner
 • Baked spinach
 • Sweet potato jelly
 in ginger
 • More veg. with
 tofu and seaweed
 a Rice

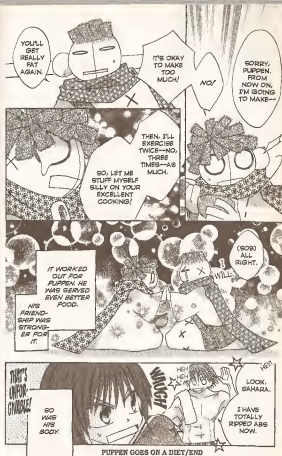








THE SIGH OF GOLD



PUPPEN GOES ON A DIET/END





THIS PLACE IS
AN ART
SCHOOL.

"WHY
SOMEONE
LIKES
HER?"

AURUM'S
PAINTINGS
ARE
CONSIDERED
BRILLIANT.

EVERY-
ONE
THINKS
HE'S
GUILTY.

NO
LONGER
EVERY-
ONE
THINKS
IT'S
WEIRD.



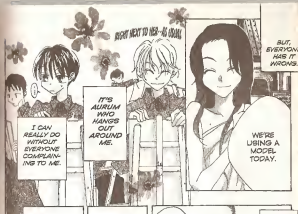
IT'S TRUE. I'M VERY PLAIN.
PEOPLE THINK IT'S WEIRD
AURUM'S ALWAYS WITH ME.



I HAVE MANY ENEMIES NOWADAYS.

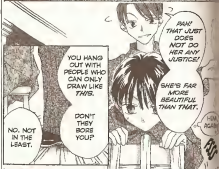


LOOK AT HIM, FOR EXAMPLE.



The Sign of Gold

This is the first story I did after my official debut. My idea of a genius was Mozart, as he appeared in the movie "Amadeus." That a person has the ability to create something so beautiful and wonderful is both disheartening and inspiring. I see Arum, Nayuta, and Lucford being together even when they're adults.



NO. NOT IN THE LEAST.

YOU HANG OUT WITH PEOPLE WHO CAN ONLY DRAW LIKE THIS.

DON'T THEY BORE YOU?

AREN'T THAT JUST DOES NOT DO HER ANY JUSTICE?

SHE'S FAR MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THAT.

HIM AGAIN?



HE FORGETS MY NAME. THEREFORE, I DON'T INTEREST HIM.

COME ON. IT'S OBVIOUS. I'M AWFUL WITH THINGS THAT DON'T INTEREST ME.

I'M REALLY FORGETFUL, TOO. ESPECIALLY OF THINGS LIKE THAT.



NAYUTA DOESN'T BORE ME AT ALL.



I'M NOT GIVING UP NOW.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY TALENT.

MEP

THAT WOULDN'T KILL ME.

SUPPOSE YOU WERE TO TAKE HIS PAINTERBLUSHES AWAY.

HE'D PROBABLY DIE.



EVEN BEING TOLD THAT, I ENROLLED HERE.



BUT, IN THE END

I THOUGHT ABOUT IT AND THOUGHT ABOUT IT.



I KNEW THAT THIS IS WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO DO.

SO...



CURIOSITY, ANIMOSITY, IT'S ALL STARTING TO LOOK THE SAME.



WHY?
TELL ME.

WHY IS AURUM SO
INTERESTED IN AN
NON-ENTITY LIKE YOU?

I DON'T
KNOW. GO
ASK HIM.

NO. LEAVE
ME ALONE!



IT'S
UNUSUAL.
BUT...

ON TOP
OF THAT,
THEY'RE
LOUSY.

YOUR
DRAWINGS
ARE SO
BLASE.

IT'S REALLY
HARD TO
FATHOM.

I WOULD
UNDER-
STAND IT IF
YOU
WEREN'T
AN ARTIST.

I REALLY
ASHORE
HAVING
TO ASK
YOU.

MY PRICE
WILL NOT LET
THIS GO UN-
ANSWERED.

OH,
DELLY?



WELL,
BOYS?
WHAT DO
YOU HAVE
TO SAY?



YSAH,
SURE.



SOME
PEOPLE
ARE BORN
LUCKY.

GET TOO
CONCISED
AND YOU'LL BE
HISTORY IN NO
TIME.



YOU'D DO
WELL TO
BE MORE
MODEST.



I'VE SEEN
A LOT OF
KIDS GET
TOUTED
LIKE YOU.

NEXT
THING
YOU
KNOW,
THEY
WERE
FINISHED
AS
ARTISTS.

BUT,
MOST
GOT THE
WRONG
IDEA.

IT'S THESE SORTS WHO
REALLY BORE ME.





"YOU
MUST
SEE
THEM."



HEY.

Asahi Japan

MINES "NIGHT."

WHAT A COINCIDENCE.

COINCIDENCE?

HE USED THE SAME
THEME.

BUT, THIS IS SO...

AURUM
JARGOON!
HE
HAS A
BRIGHT
FUTURE

LOOK.
THAT BOY
TOOK THE
GOLD THIS
YEAR.

YOU'RE
NOT THE
ONLY ONE
WHO
THINKS SO.
PROFES-
SOR.

I KNEW HE
WAS THE
REAL
THING...
... THE
MOMENT I
SAW HIM

"HAVE YOU
VIEWED THEM
PROPERLY?"



LISTEN TO
WHAT THE
PAINTING'S
SAYING TO
YOU.

IT'S TELLING
YOU THAT
YOU
SHOULDN'T
EVEN BE
PAINTING IN
THE FIRST
PLACE.



YOU CAN TRY
AS HARD AS
YOU WANT,
BUT YOU CAN
SEE THE
WRITING ON
THE WALL.

"NAYUTA DOESN'T BORE ME AT ALL."



WHY ARE
YOU
ALWAYS
LIKE THAT?

WHAT?

IS THAT
WHAT
YOU
HEAR? THEN,
MAYBE
IT'S
SAYING
THAT TO
YOU.

YOU'RE
ALWAYS
WITH
AURUM!

THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
HEAR.

HOW CAN IT
NOT AFFECT
YOU?!



HE'S
GIFTED.

YOU'LL
NEVER BE AS
GOOD AS
HIM.

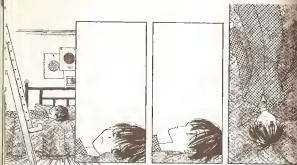


WHO ARE YOU KIDDING?

SO,
NAYUTA?

FINALLY
STARTING
TO GET THE
PICTURE?





"YOU
SHOULDN'T
EVEN BE
PAINTING."

I DON'T
CARE
HOW
TALENTED
ANYONE
IS.

I AM...



THAT'S
NOT
WHAT
IT'S
ABOUT,
THOUGH.

HOW CAN
YOU EVEN
CONTINUE
DRAWING?!

THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
HEAR.

I'M NOT
EVEN
GONNA
LISTEN.





WHAT DO
YOU THINK
ABOUT WHEN
YOU PAINT?



THEN I
MET YOU.

YOU GLARE AT
THE CANVAS
AS THOUGH
YOU'RE AT
WAR WITH
SOMETHING.



I REALLY WANT
TO FIND OUT
WHAT THE GIRL
NAYUTA IS
TRYING TO
CREATE INSIDE.



IT'S PAINFUL
TO WATCH.

BUT, THAT'S
WHAT I FIND
SO
ATTRACTIVE
ABOUT YOU.



I'M
REALLY
PROUD
OF THIS
ONE.



WELL,
YEAH.

THAT WAS
MY
ORIGINAL
INTENT.



BUT,
WHY?

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
GOING TO
DRAW A
STORM.

YOU WANT TO
SEE ALL THAT
TROUBLE.



.....
HEY

IS
THAT...
ME?



IT WASN'T AS IF I WANTED YOU TO SAY ANYTHING NICE TO ME.

I WAS DESIGNED TO BEING REJECTED.

BUT, THIS IS SO...



POSTSCRIPT



I drew *The Recipe for Gertrude* for almost three years. It is now complete.

To you my readers, who stayed with me...

To my editors, publisher, and everyone else involved with publication and distribution...

To my family and friends...

To the liquor store where I did my photocopying...

To this person, and that person, and so on...

And to everyone who helped along the way...

Thank you very, very much!



*A REASON
FOR BEING
TOGETHER?*

*I CAN ALWAYS
CREATE ONE.*

Jin Lee
 Editorial Director
 John Rice
 VP—Artistic Development
 Herb Ruseff
 VP—General Manager, WB Books
 Paul Luster
 President & Publisher
 Gerald Briner
 VP—Design & DC Direct Creative
 Richard Leving
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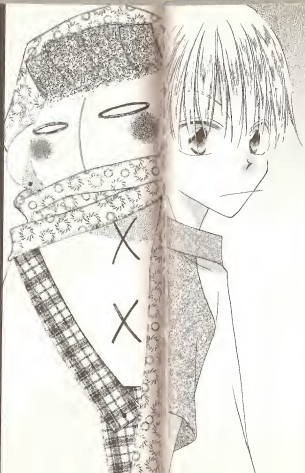
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Tony Ojima-waza—Translator and Adaptation
 William F. Schuch—Editorial
 Larry Berry—Design
 Jim Chadwick—Editor



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EVERYONE

Titles with this rating are appropriate for all age readers. They contain no offensive material. They may contain mild violence and/or some comic mischief.



TEEN

Titles with this rating are appropriate for a teen audience and older. They may contain some violent content, language, and/or suggestive themes.



TEEN PLUS

Titles with this rating are appropriate for an audience of 16 and older. They may contain partial nudity, mild profanity and more intense violence.



MATURE

Titles with this rating are appropriate only for mature readers. They may contain graphic violence, nudity, sex and content suitable only for older readers.

